

# **Animal Protection of New Mexico, Inc. (APNM)**

**P.O. Box 11395, Albuquerque, N.M. 87192-0395**

**(505)-265-2322; fax: (505)-265-2488**

**apnm@apnm.org**

3021 '99 AUG -4 A9:51

July 29, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

To whom it may concern:

This letter is in regard to Docket Numbers: 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197.

Our organization and its 3,000 members are opposed to the U.S. egg industry's practice called forced molting, in which laying hens are intentionally starved for up to 14 days to manipulate their egg production. Not only is this inhumane and should be specifically banned by the USDA, the USDA's own Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has stated that there are many public health concerns as a result of this practice. Specifically it refers to increased shedding of Salmonella enteritidis (Se) as a result of extended starvation and water deprivation practices.

We hereby request that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) prohibit the practice of forced molting since:

- the practice has been shown to promote disease by compromising the starving hens' immune systems.
- the practice is a leading cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs and consumers of eggs.

Please grant the petition, submitted in April 1998, to ban forced molting without further delay. This is clearly a public health issue that must not be ignored. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

  
Elisabeth Jennings  
Executive Director

96P-0418

C43

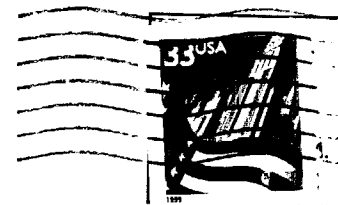


**Animal Protection of New Mexico, Inc.**

P.O. Box 11395

Albuquerque, NM 87192

Return Service Requested



**FIRST CLASS**

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Working in New Mexico's communities  
for a more humane world.

20857/0001



[www.apnm.org](http://www.apnm.org)

## CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ **C43**

See File Number: 97P-0197/ **C44**

96P 0418/ **C43**